them to take care of their food security, rural employment, rural development and poverty eradication concerns. However, no decision could be taken on these proposals as the Ministers of the member countries could not reach a consensus on a common declaration at Seattle. While the mandated negotiations in agriculture have now been formally launched in Geneva, no substantive decisions have yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Some of the developed countries could probably try to block import of food and food products from india by imposition of highly stringent sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and other non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

Export of spices

1859. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of spices exported from Meghalaya during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export data is not maintained on State wise basis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market, implementation of brand promotion schemes like Logo Promotion, grant of Spices House Certificate as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products, setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

Export from Meghalaya

1860. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of handloom handicrafts items, natural rubber, tea, leather exported form the Meghalaya during each of the last five year, and till date, country-wise;